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Utah Commission on Volunteers Ten Years of Service Ten Significant Accomplishments

The Utah Commission on Volunteers was established February 1994. Its mission is to improve Utah communities through service and volunteering.

The Commission has the opportunity to serve a state rich in the volunteer spirit. According to a survey conducted in January 2003 by Brigham Young University for the Commission, 81 percent of Utahns volunteer. That is almost three times the national average!

The following are the accomplishments of the Utah Commission on Volunteers since its inception:

UTAH'S PROMISE



- Utah's Promise, organized October 22, 1997, is Utah's response to America's Promise-the Alliance for Youth. Both aim at ensuring youth receive five research-based promises that are essential for each child's success.
- The Five Promises include caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, marketable skills and opportunities to serve and give back to their communities.
- The efforts of the Utah Commission on Volunteers have resulted in 26 effective Communities of Promise, 1000 Clubs of Promise, six Sites of Promise, two Schools of Promise and one University of Promise, all of which seek to provide youth with all Five Promises.
- Utah's Promise has received many awards, including the following:
 - Finalist for the 2003 George Bush Promise of America Award
 - Utah Philanthropy Day's "Outstanding Service Organization, November 2002 Coalition for Utah Families "Agency Family Award," 2001
 - Layton's Promise selected by America's Promise as one of 13 nationwide demonstration sites, July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004.
 - One of five states to be selected by America's Promise and Pew Partnership for Civic Change to receive the LeadershipPlenty training twice, 2002 and 2003.
- The Utah Commission on Volunteers has also assisted in placing 96 AmeriCorps Promise Fellows, over six years, throughout Utah to assist the Promise effort through full-time volunteer service in one-year terms.

- The Utah Commission on Volunteers created a Utah's Promise Web site, on which a calendar of events is posted, Update newsletters and highlight information and training and grant application information.
- A total of \$250,000 was received by the state legislature and disbursed to local communities for literacy efforts in the form of Literacy Grants. The money was for the purpose of promoting collaborative community literacy efforts throughout the state and to support the Utah's Promise Marketable Skills goal. The Utah Commission on Volunteers provided community literacy teams training to over 40 communities, which gave them a framework to develop a Community Literacy Strategic Plan. Mini-grants were awarded in the amounts of \$2-5,000 to assist in the implementation of their plans.

AMERICORPS



- AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, engages members in results-driven service.
- After their one-year term of service, AmeriCorps members receive education awards to help finance further education or to pay back student loans.
- In Utah, AmeriCorps members serve with various nonprofit and service organizations. Some of their service activities include tutoring and mentoring youth, teaching computer skills, cleaning parks and promoting public health.
- To date, more than 1,200 Utah residents have served in AmeriCorps and have qualified for education awards totaling more than \$5,000,000.
- The Utah Commission on Volunteers has served as the pass-through agency, distributing \$8,813,207 to AmeriCorps programs
- In the past fiscal year alone, Utah's 500+ AmeriCorps participants offered more than half a million (501,669) hours of service.
- In addition, they mobilized 12,843 community volunteers who contributed 67,425 hours of service.

LEARN AND SERVE



- The Utah Commission on Volunteers granted funds totaling \$773,080 to 12 community-based organizations.
- Each of the 12 organizations was required to have at least four partners.
- Over 8,000 youth volunteers contributed more than 200,000 hours of service.
- Their 1,600 adult counterparts served more than 17,000 hours.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



- Because individuals and groups throughout Utah deserve to be recognized for their outstanding service, the Utah Commission on Volunteers gives various awards to recognize and promote volunteerism.
- The Governor's Points of Light Award is a weekly award presented quarterly to Utah residents who demonstrate exemplary volunteer service to their communities. Each recipient receives a declaration signed by the Governor and Lt. Governor. To date, 160 Governor's Points of Light Awards have been awarded. Thirty-eight Utahns have also received the Daily Points of Light Award, which is given daily by the President of the United States.
- The Red Wagon Awards are given each year to recognize the efforts of volunteers and to celebrate the anniversary of the creation of Utah's Promise. To date, 30 Red Wagon Awards have been given.
- The Silver Bowl Awards are presented by the Utah Commission on Volunteers and the Utah Volunteer Centers Association. They are presented yearly to exemplary volunteers from each county in Utah, and are presented in conjunction with National Volunteer Week and Volunteer Month in Utah. Since the involvement of the Utah Commission on Volunteers, 192 Silver Bowl awards have been given over eight years.
- In conjunction with the annual statewide Conference on Service and Volunteerism, the Utah Commission on Volunteers presents the following awards: Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award, Helping Hands Corporate Volunteer Program of the Year, Helping Hands Nonprofit Volunteer Program of the Year, Volunteer Administrator of the Year and the Lt. Governor's Civic Volunteer of the Year Award. Information and recipients are featured on volunteers.utah.gov.
- The Utah Commission on Volunteers, in partnership with the Y.E.S. (Youth Engaged in Service) Ambassador, actively seeks to promote the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA). The PVSA's are given to individuals or groups who have contributed a significant amount of service to their communities.. The Utah Commission on Volunteers has helped organize the PVSA Growth Committee to increase knowledge and recipients of this award.

VOLUNTEER CENTERS



- Volunteer Centers are established to connect volunteers with service opportunities within their own communities.
- To date, the Utah Commission on Volunteers has increased the number of Volunteer Centers in Utah from 4 to 20. That is a net increase of 16 Volunteer Centers!
- The Utah Commission on Volunteers also provides leadership and coordination through the Utah Volunteer Centers Association.

- The Utah Commission on Volunteers has also granted \$16,391 of in training funds to Volunteer Centers. This money was used to provide workshops for National Service and other volunteer programs covering topics such as recruiting and retention of volunteers, managing volunteer programs, recognition ideas, conflict resolution, reflection, communication and developing advisory boards.
- Established a toll-free statewide 1-800-250-SERVE number to increase access to local Volunteer Centers

CITIZEN CORPS



- The Utah Commission on Volunteers provides coordination and leadership to the Utah Citizen Corps Council.
- The state council is a sub-committee of the Commission and chaired by a member of the Commission on Volunteers.
- The mission of Citizen Corps is to harness the power of every individual through education, training and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger and better prepared.

UNIFIED STATE PLAN



- The Utah Commission on Volunteers seeks to unify the work of the volunteer and service sector through the Unified State Plan for National and Community Service.
- The Commission partners with the Corporation for National and Community Service Utah State Office, the Utah State Office of Education, Utah Volunteer Centers Association, Utah Senior Service Corps Directors Association, Utah Campus Compact and Utah's Y.E.S. (Youth Engaged in Service) Ambassador from the Points of Light Foundation to create and maintain the goals of the Unified State Plan.
- The priorities developed in the three year, 2002 Unified State Plan process include Homeland Security; involvement of faith-based organizations; increased civic engagement; youth, effectiveness and collaboration; support of local communities; and public awareness.

CONFERENCES AND TRAININGS

- Each year the Utah Commission on Volunteers hosts the Utah Conference on Service and Volunteerism. This is a statewide conference that brings together rep-

- representatives of the service and volunteer sectors from throughout the state. Close to 2,600 people have attended the eight conferences hosted by the Commission.
- The Utah Commission on Volunteers organized the host committee for the 2002 National Conference on Community Volunteering and National Service. This conference brought over 3,500 people to Utah, including First Lady Laura Bush.
 - The Utah Commission on Volunteers staff has conducted approximately 350 strategic planning trainings and 77 board trainings for communities and organizations throughout Utah.
 - The Utah Youth Summit is an annual event sponsored by the Utah Commission on Volunteers and Utah State 4-H. Youth service teams from throughout the state of Utah gather to participate in workshops, seminars, hands-on projects and networking activities. The goal of the Utah Youth Summit is to provide youth with the skills necessary to make long-term changes in their communities. There have been a total of five Summits, which have trained 1,216 youth.

YOUTH ENGAGED SERVICE

- The Utah Commission on Volunteers, along with the Utah State 4-H Office, has hosted the annual Utah Youth Summit, for the past five years, which trains youth from across the state on the importance of service and how they can encourage volunteerism in their own communities.
- The Commission has hosted a YES Ambassador, one of only eight in the nation, from the Points of Light Foundation for the past three years.

LIVE TO GIVE!



- Recently, the Commission, in conjunction with its Unified State Plan partners, has created the “Live to Give” Campaign to encourage usage Utah’s Volunteer Centers and to make volunteerism more effective state wide.
- Volunteers can now log on to www.ILiveToGive.org to easily find service opportunities and connect to service organizations in their community.